

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION NEA-16

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FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1167

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 1594

FOR NEA/AMBASSADOR MURPHY FROM SCOTES

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SY, US

SUBJECT: DRAFT REMARKS

1. BELOW ARE SUGGESTED REMARKS FOR YOUR USE DURING THE PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS CEREMONY.

2. "MR. PRESIDENT: I AM INDEED PLEASED AND HONORED TO COME BEFORE YOU TODAY AS THE FIRST AMERICAN AMBASSADOR TO SYRIA AFTER AN ABSENCE OF SEVEN YEARS. THOSE OF US WHO SERVED IN SYRIA IN THE PAST AND WHO KNEW ITS PEOPLE AND CULTURE FELT KEENLY THIS BREAK IN RELATIONS BUT AT THE SAME TIME WE CONTINUED TO HOPE THAT THE OPPORTUNITY WOULD ONCE AGAIN PRESENT ITSELF FOR OUR TWO PEOPLES AND TWO GOVERNMENTS TO REESTABLISH THE DIALOGUE OF THE PAST.

3. "THANK TO THE WISDOM AND PERSPICACITY OF YOUR EXCELLENCY AS WELL AS TO THE FORESIGHTED AND FAR-REACHING EFFORTS OF BOTH PRESIDENT NIXON AND SECRETARY KISSINGER OUR TWO PEOPLES AND OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS NOW FIND THEMSELVES ABOUT TO ENTER A NEW PHASE IN THE HISTORY OF RELATIONS BETWEEN SYRIA AND THE UNITED STATES. IT MAY WELL BE THAT THIS NEW PHASE WILL BE FRAUGHT WITH DIFFICULTIES AND PROBLEMS BUT I AM CONVINCED THAT ON THE BASIS OF MUTUAL CONFIDENCE AND TRUST OUR TWO PEOPLES AND OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS CAN OVERCOME THEM AND CAN PROCEED TOGETHER TO A NEW ERA OF PEACE AND PROSPERITY FOR ALL THE PEOPLES OF THE MIDDLE EAST.

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4. "THERE IS AN OLD ARAB SAYING THAT 'ONE HAND ALONE CANNOT

CLAP.' IN MY OWN COUNTRY WE SAY 'TWO HANDS ARE BETTER THAN ONE.' I WISH TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO PLEDGE TO YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, THAT MY HAND AND MY HEART ARE READY TO WORK WITH YOU AND YOUR GOVERNMENT TO CONTINUE ON THE PATH WHICH YOU AND PRESIDENT NIXON HAVE SO ABLY CHARTED--A PATH WHICH LEADS TO JUSTICE AND PEACE FOR THE MIDDLE EAST AND FOR THE ENTIRE WORLD.

5. "AS PRESIDENT NIXON SAID DURING HIS RECENT VISIT TO SYRIA 'THIS CITY IN 6,000 YEARS HAS SEEN MORE OF HISTORY THAN ANY OTHER CONTINUALLY INHABITED CITY.' WE TODAY HAVE BEEN VOUCHSAFED AN OPPORTUNITY TO WRITE A NEW CHAPTER IN THAT GLORIOUS HISTORY. AT THE SAME TIME WE HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO BUILD ON THIS LONG AND HONORABLE PAST A BETTER FUTURE FOR OUR CHILDREN AND OUR CHILDREN'S CHILDREN. I AM CONFIDENT THAT WORKING TOGETHER WE CAN ACHIEVE THIS NOBLE END AND I STAND READY TO DEVOTE ALL OF MY ENERGIES AND MY TIME TO THE STRENGTHENING OF RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. I KNOW I CAN RELY ON BOTH YOUR GOVERNMENT AND YOUR PEOPLE TO HELP ME IN THIS TASK.

6. "FINALLY, MAY I TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY, MR. PRESIDENT, TO SUBMIT TO YOU MY LETTER OF CREDENCE SENT BY PRESIDENT RICHARD M. NIXON. THESE LETTERS ALSO COME WITH HIS PERSONAL BEST WISHES TO YOU AS WELL AS WITH THE GREETINGS OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE."
SCOTES

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